

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for detecting a target microorganism in a sample, comprising a conditionally detectable marker, and wherein said marker is a substrate for an aminopeptidase, wherein said aminopeptidase that is substantially absent from the target microorganism, wherein said substrate comprises a signal moiety linked to the substrate, the signal moiety capable of providing a detectable signal when cleaved by substantially all non-target microorganisms.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said target microorganism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, yeast, mold, fungi, protozoa, and viruses.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein said target microorganism is bacteria.

4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3, wherein said bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *E.coli* OH157, *Campylobacter*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Cryptosporidium*, and *Giardia*.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein said bacteria is *Campylobacter*.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said conditionally detectable marker is detectable by a change in color.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 6, wherein said conditionally detectable marker comprises change in color is produced by the biochemical reduction of tetrazolium red.

8.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said aminopeptidase is an L-alanine-aminopeptidase.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of L-Alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin, L-Alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin TFA, L-Alanine-7-amido-4-trifluoro-methylcoumarin TFA, L-Alanyl-L-alanyl-L-phenylalanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin, and L-Alanyl-L-alanyl-L-phenylalanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin TFA.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein said substrate is L-alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein said non-target microorganisms include substantially all non-*Campylobacter* species.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a growth-supporting medium for the target microorganism.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said growth supporting medium contains all necessary nutrients and growth conditions to properly support the growth of the target microorganism.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said growth supporting medium contains antibiotics to suppress the growth of non-target microorganisms.

Application No. 09/940,682  
Reply to Office Action dated March 2, 2006

17.-24. (Canceled)